

Professor Fine  
LARTS-396E  
910-6905  
dfine@umassd.edu

# MTH465 Syllabus

Spring 2024

*Nexus: Small Worlds & the Groundbreaking Science of Networks*  
M. Buchanan

*Mathematica* or equivalent mathematics-programming software

## **Week of 1/22:**

Introduction  
Small worlds & networks  
Graphs & their computer representations

## **Week of 1/29:**

*Add/Drop/Audit deadline is Monday*  
Density, diameter & clustering

## **Week of 2/5:**

Random graphs (Erdős & Rényi)

## **Week of 2/12:**

Generation & properties of random graphs

## **Week of 2/19:**

**Presidents' Day** *No class Tuesday*  
Mathematical certainties about random graphs

## **Week of 2/26:**

*Pass/Fail deadline is Tuesday*  
More on random graphs

## **Week of 3/4:**

Social networks & and power companies  
Granovetter, Strogatz & Watts  
**Midterm exam**

## **Week of 3/11:**

**Spring Break**

## **Week of 3/18:**

Generation & properties of Strogatz-Watts networks  
The Internet & the web

## **Week of 3/25:**

Power law distributions of vertex degrees  
Generation & properties of Barabási-Albert networks  
**Paper proposal due Thursday**

**Week of 4/1:**

Aiello-Chung-Lu models

Mathematical results

**Paper introduction due Thursday**

**Week of 4/8:**

More mathematical results

*Withdrawal deadline is Friday*

**Week of 4/15:**

**Patriots' Day Class** *does meet on Tuesday*

**Paper draft due Tuesday**

Related topics

**Week of 4/22:**

Student presentations

Student presentations

**Week of 4/29:**

**Paper due Tuesday**

*Last class is Tuesday*

Student presentations

The University Studies 5B learning outcomes are that upon completion of this requirement, students will be able to:

- Identify the needs and resources of the communities to which they belong.
- Apply knowledge and skills gained through academic study to real problems and/or opportunities within their communities.
- Describe the connections between learning on campus and the issues and needs of broader academic, professional or civic communities.
- Articulate the value of engagement to other members of their communities.

The community may be professional, scholarly, social, cultural, economic or political.

Those students using the course to fulfill this requirement will give their presentations to an off-campus audience, generally<sup>1</sup> a math class at a local high school. I will facilitate making the required arrangements with an instructor.

---

<sup>1</sup>If you wish to present to a different audience, please discuss this with me. You will need to make your own arrangements for the presentation.